



COAI

ISSUE
AUGUST 2022

I-DIGEST

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LT. GEN DR. SP KOCHHAR (RETD.)

Director General, COAI

From DG's Desk

With India entering its 76th year of Independence, it is very accurate to say that over the past decade the Telecom industry has witnessed a lot of positive development which has made the connectivity amongst the people smoother than ever before. The Indian Telecom industry is now the fastest growing industry in the world with 1.1B subscribers (as of April 2022), contributing majorly to the service sector. Digital connectivity has become the foundation of India's digital landscape.

Having said that, the recent amendments in the RoW Rules 2016, will lead to a faster expansion of the digital infrastructure and cater to the needs of the masses in providing faster and better connectivity. We are thankful to the government and would like to congratulate the DoT for introducing "The Indian Telegraph Right of Way (Amendment) Rules, 2022" along with the launch of the 5G RoW Application Form on the GatiShakti Sanchar Portal. The new amendments prescribe for Rs. 1000 per pole for establishment of poles, for installation of small cells and aerial fibre, Further, Rs 300 per annum for urban area and Rs 150 per annum for rural areas per street furniture for installation of Small Cells and Rs. 100 per annum per street furniture for installation of aerial fibre (Overhead Telegraph line).

With the country rapidly moving towards the 5G revolution, The Indian Telegraph Right of Way (Amendment) Rules, 2022 will provide an assurance of accomplishing the vision of soaring the 5G technology across India come true. The hurdle to the access of the existing infrastructure, deployment of new infrastructure, with the involvement of high cost will now be eased off and will restrain. We are also delighted to have 5G RoW application form on GatiShakti Sanchar Portal which will undeniably fasten the digital infrastructure process. We would heartily congratulate Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi and Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister of Communications, visions like these will only ace India in becoming one of the fastest developing countries in the world.

With India being at the apex of launching the visionary 5G innovation RoW and the use of street furniture for the deployment of small cells will converge a notable role. The country needs a concrete mobile network infrastructure of the enhancement of digital services and mobile broadband has played a crucial impact on the country's economic growth.

In a nutshell, we are excited to see what these amendments have to offer to the industry and to the masses.



COAI

Latest Updates:



Workshop on Security Related Matters with LEAs and LSAs

DoT had organized a Workshop on Security related matters on 22nd & 23rd of Aug for the North & East Zones at Lucknow. During the workshop issues related to CMS/IMS, TAFCOP, ASTR, CEIR, verification, etc. were discussed. COAI and members presented their viewpoints on these issues during the allotted slot.

Need for Rationalization of EMF Exposure Norms

COAI submitted a reminder letter to DoT on 24th Aug 2022 regarding need for Rationalisation of EMF Exposure Norms and considering suggested changes in EMF compliance testing methodology. COAI submitted that this is the need of the hour to have a successful and widespread rollout of 5G services, to quickly augment the existing telecom services, achieve improvement in cost-efficiency for network rollouts, and to further reduce the digital divide.

TRA Open House Discussion on Consultation Paper on "Spectrum Requirements of National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) for Train Control System for RRTS Corridors"

During the OHD held on 25th Aug 2022, COAI reiterated its submissions stating that why additional 5 MHz from the 700 MHz band should not be allocated to RRST. It was stated that this is a crucial band for IMT and hence should be protected. The requirements of RRTS & any other such transport system could easily be met by using spectrum efficiency techniques. Also, there is a need to have a spectrum roadmap for providing clarity regarding usage of various bands to all the concerned stakeholders.

Extension of timelines for EMF Self-Certificate Submission

COAI vide its letter dated 25th Aug 2022 requested DoT for extension of timelines for EMF Self-Certificate Submission due to deployment of the newly acquired Spectrum during July 2022 Auction and allocated in August 2022. COAI submitted that there would be an unprecedented and massive upgrade exercise in the existing networks with new acquired frequencies. The network

reconfiguration will include multiple upgrades like bandwidth/power/antenna change etc. for existing as well as newly acquired spectrum. Each upgrade will need EMF compliance and submission. TSPs need to upgrade over seven lakhs sites and also install at many new BTSs and sites.

Reforms in Telecom Sector

COAI has submitted a letter to DoT on 02nd Aug 2022. Vide this letter we submitted the suggestions on second phase of reforms in the telecom sector on various steps that can be taken to further enhance Ease of Business and attract investment in the sector.

Guidelines for Registration Process of M2M Service Providers (M2MSP) & WPAN/WLAN Connectivity Provider for M2M Services

COAI has submitted a letter to DoT on 04th Aug 2022. Vide this letter, we have submitted that Proprietorship firms should be allowed for taking registration (M2MSP / WLAN / WPAN) under the mentioned Guidelines. The Guidelines may kindly be amended to that effect and relevant changes may also be carried out in Saral Sanchar Portal to facilitate the same. Vide the said letter we requested DoT to transparently publish the names and registration details of the M2MSPs on Saral Sanchar portal.

Parameters for Internet Protocol Detail Record (IPDR) and SYS LOG of Network Address Translation (NAT)

COAI has submitted a letter to DoT on 08th Aug 2022. Vide this letter, we requested DoT for written clarity/confirmation on the mentioned aspects as these were fundamental to planning for implementation of IPDR instructions and to avoid duplication of storage of the same/partial information across various entities especially considering the fact that IPDRs are unlike CDRs due to the massive number of records. We further emphasised that despite the practical challenges highlighted in our previous letters, our members continue to investigate practically viable options for implementing DoT instructions in the interest of national security. Furthermore, given the need for additional infrastructure in the project's implementation and the global shortage

of hardware, it may take a significant amount of time to implement these instructions; thus, we requested that the timelines for implementation be extended by at least one year, to the end of July 2023.

Request for Extension of Timeline for responding to the TRAI CP on "Embedded SIM for M2M Communication"

COAI has submitted a letter to TRAI on 08th Aug 2022. Vide this letter, we have submitted that this being a very important and detailed paper, dwelling into multiple facets and will have far reaching implications involving, but not limited to, rights and obligations of multiple cross-sector stakeholders. Our members are having detailed discussions internally and externally with all relevant stakeholders covering Technical, Regulatory, and Business-related aspects to be able to respond to the several questions raised in the Consultation Paper. We therefore requested TRAI to kindly grant extension of at least 06 weeks, i.e., till 03rd Oct 2022 for submitting the comments on Consultation Paper on "Embedded SIM for M2M Communication" issued on 25th July 2022. TRAI granted extension till 19th Sept.

Data sought for Optical Fiber and FWA etc

COAI has submitted a letter to DoT on 09th Aug 2022. Vide this letter we have stated that TSPs have been submitting their reports pertaining to their towers on the Tarang Sanchar portal on periodical basis. Since this report is exhaustive and provides complete details of the mobile network towers and coverage of all TSPs, the same should be considered by the Government for their planning of network expansion and connectivity in rural and far-flung areas. We therefore requested DoT to collect the data from the Tarang Sanchar Portal, TRAI Myspeed Portal and other Portals like Saral Sanchar, etc. and NOT seek data from our member TSPs, as mentioned in DoT's email dated 21.12.2021 and 12.07.2022 respectively, so as to maintain security and integrity of the networks, business confidentiality and implement "Ease of Doing Business" in true letter and spirit.

Request for Extension of Timeline for responding to the TRAI CP on "Rationalization of Entry Fee and Bank Guarantees"

COAI has submitted a letter to TRAI on 17th Aug 2022. Vide this letter we have submitted that this is a very important and detailed paper which covers key Financial and Business-related aspects. It also involves exploring the alternative solutions and their financial impact on the business vis-à-vis the Bank Guarantee solution. Our members are having discussions internally and externally and need analysis/view across functions and stakeholders to be able to respond to the several questions raised in the Consultation Paper. We therefore requested TRAI to kindly grant extension of at least 06 weeks, i.e., till 04th Oct 2022 for submitting the comments on Consultation Paper on "Rationalization of Entry Fee and Bank Guarantees" issued on 26th July 2022. TRAI granted extension till 6th Sept.

COAI's submission to Indore Municipal Corporation

COAI's submission was done to Indore Municipal Corporation on 01.08.2022 for withdrawal of Fee for laying aerial cable on Corporation Electric Poles [Central light & Arm Pole] from INR 700 per pole per annum in Indore

Municipal Corporation (IMC).

COAI's submission to Secretary (IT), Tamil Nadu

COAI's submission was done to Principal Secretary (IT), Tamil Nadu on 10.08.2022 regarding No Zone Poles in Tamil Nadu and Regularisation of Telecom Infrastructure.

Industry meeting with DDG(R), Delhi

COAI raised industry issues like delay in permissions by MCDs, reconciliation related issues, Withdrawal of the Way Leave Charges etc. during industry meeting held under the chairmanship of DDG(Rural), Delhi LSA on 11.07.2022.

Industry meeting with Principal Secretary (IT), West Bengal

A virtual meeting was held between Director General Telecom, Government of India, and Pr. Secretary IT, West Bengal on 10.08.2022 to discuss the coordination related issues and Right of Way related issues so that faster approval can be granted by state govt. Follow-up industry meetings with IT Department of West Bengal were also organised to resolve the on-ground issues.

State Broadband Committee (SBC) Meeting of Rajasthan

COAI raised industry's concerns during the 5th SBC meeting of Rajasthan on 22.08.2022 industry issues like Manhole charges, Pole Charges for deployment of aerial fibre, Charges for using the common Duct, etc. were discussed.

COAI's submission to DISCOM, Rajasthan

COAI's submission was done to DISCOM, Rajasthan on 22.08.2022 to request them to reduce the Pole charges for the deployment of the aerial fibre as per the RoW guidelines proposed by the DoT.

COAI's submission to Chief Secretary, Rajasthan

COAI's submission was done to Chief Secretary, Rajasthan on 22.08.2022 to request them to reduce the Pole charges as per the RoW guidelines proposed by the DoT.

State Broadband Committee (SBC) Meeting of UP held on 29.08.2022

COAI raised industry's concerns in the SBC meeting of Uttar Pradesh held on 29.08.2022 industry issues like expediting the pending RoW permissions, Installation, and Regularization of towers, De-sealing of the sealed tower, etc. were discussed.

FRCM Meeting

The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is holding Fortnightly Regional Coordination Meeting (FRCM) meeting to review the progress of the proposals for road & telecommunication projects under FCA, 1980. Fortnightly Regional Coordination Meeting (FRCM) were attended for IRO Bangalore, IRO Vijayawada, IRO Lucknow, IRO Chandigarh, IRO Gandhi Nagar. COAI along with representatives from the Circle team joined

from respective State and highlighted the RoW pendency.

Notification of Committee on 5G deployment

On the industry's request, a committee on 5G deployment was notified by Government of Uttar Pradesh Government (on 16.08.2022) and Government of Himachal Pradesh (on 18.08.2022) for the speedy roll-out of Digital Infrastructure in the State.

State Broadband Committee (SBC) Meeting of Tripura

COAI raised industry's concerns in the 3rd SBC meeting of Tripura on 26.08.2022 industry issues like speedy grant of EB connection permission, providing police protection for the safety of Telecom Infrastructure, etc. were discussed.

EMF Awareness Webinar

COAI supported Uttarakhand Unit of DoT to organise 'EMF Awareness Webinar' on 25.08.2022. Over 100 representatives from RWA, local municipalities, IT Department, etc. participated in the same.

COAI's submission to Chief Secretary, Maharashtra

COAI's submission was done to Chief Secretary, Govt of Maharashtra on 12.08.2022 to declassify the recommendations shared by the Principal Secretary, (UD-2), Maharashtra.

COAI's submission to Principal Secretary (IT), Maharashtra

COAI's submission was done to Principal Secretary (IT), Govt of Maharashtra on 30.08.2022 regarding portal related issues and other Right of Way (RoW) related issues.

COAI's submission to Chief Secretary, MP.

COAI's submission was done to Chief Secretary, Govt of MP to issue Suitable directions to District Magistrate/District Authorities/State Police to Safeguard duly approved Telecom /Digital infrastructure on date Aug 03, 2022.

COAI's submission to Addl. Chief Secretary (IT), Haryana

COAI's submission was done to Addl. Chief Secretary (IT), Govt of Haryana for issuing suitable directions to State Authorities for Provisions for Aerial OFC, Online Portal issues and High Lease Charges on August 25, 2022.

COAI's submission to Chief Secretary, Jharkhand

COAI's submission was done to Chief Secretary, Jharkhand on 26.08.2022 to issue necessary directions and amendments to allow provision for Aerial OFC across Jharkhand State and to rationalize the Overground / Aerial OFC charges.

DoT notifies the Indian Telegraph Right of Way (Amendment) Rules, 2022.

Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has made certain amendments to the India Telegraph Right of Way (RoW) Rules, 2016 to facilitate a quicker and easier rollout of 5G telecom infrastructure in the country.

RoW application procedures for Small cell has now been simplified. Telcos will now be able to use street infrastructure to deploy telecom equipment at a nominal cost of Rs 150/annum in rural areas and Rs 300/annum in urban areas.

Also, street infrastructure may be utilized at a nominal cost of Rs 100/annum to install overground optical fibre.

Telecom licensees can enter into an agreement with private property owners for installation of telecom infrastructure, and they will not require government approval.

COAI's submission to State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERC)

COAI's submission was done to State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERC) of Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Karnataka and Jharkhand for their support regarding priority EB supply at Industrial tariffs.

State Broadband Committee (SBC) Meeting of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu held on 25.08.2022

COAI raised industry's concerns in the SBC meeting of DNH and DD held on 25.08.2022 industry issues like expediting the pending RoW permissions, Deployment of Aerial OFC/ Small cells/ Low power BTS, Provisions for Common ducts, Priority EB connection etc. were discussed.

Basis COAI submission Positive Directions were issued by MoEF&CC

Basis COAI representation and subsequent discussion held with MoEF&CC. Forest Ministry issued clarifications/changes on simplification of Form-A, allowing Nodal officer to consider permissions outside protected areas and Provisions for laying Overhead OFCs.

GST- Input Tax credit on equipment installed on telecom tower

Some of the State Tax Authorities are proposing to deny ITC on telecom equipment including crucial network equipment viz. antenna, base stations, transmitters and other utilities like DG and batteries installed on towers by interpreting that such equipment is to be treated at par with telecom tower.

Denial of ITC on telecom equipment installed on telecom towers or other equipment like batteries, diesel generating sets etc. installed in temporary shelters close to the telecom towers for running of the telecom equipment is therefore totally baseless and without any precedent.

Post our representations, matter is being sent by MoF to GST Law Committee for review. Had a follow up meeting with Principal Secretary, Rajasthan to discuss the issue.



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News Wires:

5G to transform India into digital powerhouse, revolutionize connectivity

The year 2022 is not just a proud moment for the Ministry of Communications, but also for each citizen of the country. [Read more](#)



India Australia should work together on 6G Technology: High Commissioner

India and Australia should work together in framing an ethical regulatory framework for the sixth-generation technology, Australian High Commissioner to India Barry O'Farrell said. [Read more](#)



EMF Norms: Telcos seek global standards

Telecom operators have urged the government to bring the current EMF norms in line with global standards, failing which they would need to put up more towers, which will not only increase their capital & operating expenditures but also result in higher carbon footprint. [Read more](#)



Government does away with need for approval for laying telecom infra on private properties

Telecom companies will not require approval from authorities for laying cables or installing mobile towers or poles over private properties, according to Right of Way (RoW) rules notified by government recently. [Read more](#)





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News Wires:

5G a highway for Data services

Envision in India where limitless connectivity implies vast conceivable outcomes, and where connectivity enables an exciting future and unlocks unseen possibilities, redefines business, and develops a sustainable development.

[Read more](#)



COAI Events

"NASSCOMXperienceAI Virtual Summit 2022"

Bihar LSA along with Chief Secretary, Govt. of Bihar conducted the 3rd State Broadband Committee meeting. COAI appreciates their efforts for the same in hope that this will be helpful in the speedy roll-out of telecom Infrastructure and resolve the industry's issues at the earliest.



"CUTS International Event"

Speaking at the CUTS International Event – Identifying Elements of Ethical & Regulatory Framework for 6G & Creating Opportunities for India and Australia, DG, Lt. Gen. Dr. S P Kochhar said: Economies will depend on digital technologies & over-led by applications in the coming future while we monitor frameworks. Further, he highlighted, that the 3 pillars for a successful partnership are Ethical frameworks, technology standards adopted across the world, & shaping the global marketplace we must also focus on skilled manpower to achieve effective results.



"Nexgen Conference 2022"

Addressing the panel discussion at the Nexgen Conferences 2nd Annual Cloud Native Telco's Forum 2022, DG, COAI, Lt. Gen. Dr. S P Kochhar talked about Cloud-native in the telecom sector, its advantages along with the kind of impact it will bring if adopted in India.



COAI Events

"EMF Awareness Webinar"

DoT Uttarakhand organized the EMF Awareness Webinar as part of the DoT India public advocacy program to make the general public aware of the need for mobile towers and dispel myths regarding the health effects of EMF exposure from Mobile Towers. Sh. Arun Kumar Verma, DDG, DoT Uttarakhand Sh. Pankaj Porwal, Director (C), O/o DDG, DoT Uttarakhand, and Dr. Tushar Kant Joshi addressed public concerns during the webinar.



"COAI welcomes the RoW Rules 2022 along with the launch of the Application Form on"

GatiShakti Sanchar Portal Giving a major push to India's 5G run, Hon'ble Union Minister Shri Ashwini Vasihnwaw, Ministry of electronics and information technology released the Right of Way (RoW) rules amendment. 5G RoW Application form was also launched on the Gati Shakti Sanchar portal. The minister said: A Series of reforms by the govt has solved issues like spectrum allocation & right of way. We've taken all state governments with us & will be rolling out 5G by October.





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